

REMARKS

These remarks and the accompanying amendments are responsive to the Office Action mailed June 29, 2004 (hereinafter referred to as "the Office Action"). Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 17 and 20 are cancelled, Claims 3, 5, 7-12, 14, 18 and 19 are currently amended, and Claims 21-30 are new. Accordingly, upon entry of these amendments, Claims 3, 5, 7-16, 18, 19, and 21-30 will be pending for further examination.

Section 1 of the Office Action objects to Claims 9, 10, and 11 as being in improper multiple dependent form. The claims are amended herein to remove multiple dependencies, thereby overcoming this objection.

Section 3 of the Office Action rejects Claims 2-8, 12-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The claims as amended herein overcome all of the antecedent basis issues expressed in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Section 5 of the Office Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 6 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Number EP 0,578,041 (hereinafter referred to as "Perkins"). This rejection is rendered moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 1, 2, 6 and 20 herein.

Section 7 of the Office Action rejects Claims 4/2 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perkins in view of United States patent number 6,473,411 (hereinafter referred to as "Kumaki") This rejection is also rendered moot in light of the cancellation of Claims 4 and 17.

In light of these remarks and the accompanying amendments, favorable action is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt

allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 29th day of September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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